

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04

AID-20 SCS-03 ACDA-19 /126 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:DLRANARD:LM

7/17/73 EXT 20780

APPROVED BY EA/K:DLRANARD

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P 172103Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140169

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: ARREST OF MEMBERS OF ROK RELIGIOUS SOCIAL ACTION
GROUPS

REF: SEOUL 4348

1. YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM APPROPRIATE ROK OFFICIALS THAT
ARREST OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS MENTIONED IN REFTEL IS
BEGINNING TO RAISE SMALL STORM IN U.S. RELIGIOUS CIRCLES.
WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL TELEPHONE CALLS FROM RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF CHURCHES AND METHODIST CONFERENCE, ASKING FOR FACTS
AND EXPRESSING CONCERN. NEWS OF ARRESTS APPARENTLY HAS
FILTERED IN TO THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN
GENEVA, AND IN TURN IS BEING PASSED ON TO NATIONAL CHURCH
GROUPS.
2. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES INDICATED THEY HAVE
ALREADY SENT CABLE TO PRESIDENT PARK AND THAT THEY WILL ALSO
BE ADDRESSING LETTER TO SECRETARY AS WELL AS TO
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CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. NATIONAL COUNCIL HAS ASKED WHETHER

IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR SECRETARY DURING HIS VISIT TO
INQUIRE INTO MATTER AND TO EXPRESS INTEREST ON BEHALF
OF U.S. CHURCH GROUPS.

3. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT OUR EMBASSY HAS INQUIRED INTO
THESE CASES, AND HAS DROPPED WORDS OF CAUTION IN QUARTERS
WHERE WE ARE HOPEFUL THEY WILL DO THE MOST GOOD.
(FYI. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY SUGGESTION, WE WILL BE
FURNISHING SPEAKER ALBERT WITH MATERIAL RELATING TO ARREST
OF FORMER OPPOSITION ASSEMBLYMEN WHICH HE WILL USE IN
TALKS WITH LEADERS OF ROK PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION. WE
NOW PLAN TO ALSO ADD INFORMATION REGARDING THE ARREST OF
RELIGIOUS LEADERS.) RUSH

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30 JUN 2005

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